

25th February 2024



Anguish and Assurance

Lent is always a really challenging time for Christians. In no time at all, we move from the joy of the birth of our Saviour – God made man for all to see, to know, to love and live for – to the end of Jesus's life in the most dreadful circumstances. How can it be that so loving a God can permit so costly a journey? We have plenty of time in Lent to think, reflect and pray about this, as long as we dare to do so.

This week in Mark we reach the second half of his gospel. "Then he began..." to explain what was going to happen to the Messiah. Not, as the disciples, personified by Peter, thought to raise an army to free Israel from the Romans. No that was Satan's idea, God was thinking of something completely different! We are all going to lose our lives particularly if we try to preserve them by our own effort and for our own ends. In the words of American missionary Jim Elliot "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose." In what seems to us an upside down way, in God's kingdom the really powerful are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers and those who suffer persecution for righteousness.

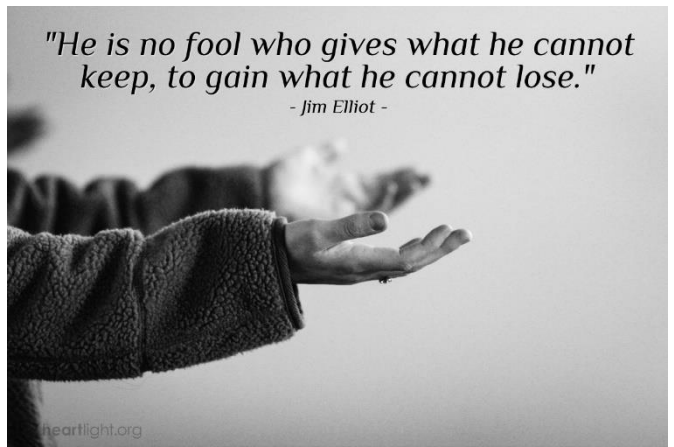
Our psalm starts in anguish "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me...". We join it for another second half. Here there is less about personal pain, suffering and loss and more about concern for the poor, the nations and the future. Here we have images of life, feasting and praise. Despite the agonies vividly portrayed in the first half of the psalm, new life, hope and celebration have the final word. Assurance following the anguish.

Mark, overall, tells a similar story. Anguish and assurance are the two sides of one of God's coins and Jesus, as always, has shown us the way. Like Him we must suffer to enter his glory and our glory is to bear suffering, for ourselves and for others, in his name. He assures us, all day and every day, that He will be with us to the end of time.

Lindsay

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."

- Jim Elliot -



Deanery Survey

Don't forget to provide your feedback about all the different kinds of interactions you have with children, young people and families, no matter how insignificant you think that may be. We are hoping to get feedback from all the churches in our deanery. You can record your input here <https://forms.gle/88HeFEyR36iyMAwL7>

A hard copy of the form is available from Laurina Rushworth. If you have any questions, please speak to Laurina or Catherine.

Please pray for...



Sarah Creasey, Ron Jones, John Panter, Laura McGarry, Beryl Hinton, Colin Smith and Ray Croucher. Also, for Joe McFee's grandson, 7-month-old Jaiden Roberts.

We pray for the family and friends of Jill Hurst, whose funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Hales TF9 2PR, at 11am on Wednesday 6th March, followed by the Committal at Telford Crematorium. Refreshments afterwards at The British Legion in Market Drayton.

We periodically update our prayer section. Please let the Church Office know if you wish names to remain on or be removed from the list.

Lent: Wilderness and Discipleship



Evenings for reflection, study and worship. Next session Tuesdays 27th February, 6.45-8.30pm in St Mary's Church.

The Filling Station

26th February at 7.15pm at Rodington village hall with speaker Rev Phil Cansdale. All Welcome



Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Worship CW

Readings: Psalm 22.23-end Mark 8.31-end.

6.30pm Iona Communion

This service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRM R2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmO G5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion

Zoom services can be accessed via landline using any of the following numbers, with the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240 / 0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874.

Helpers Needed

More helpers are needed for refreshments after the 10.30 Sunday morning services. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to Pat Fox.

Children's Society Boxes

Time to collect again! Please could you bring your boxes into church on Sundays, or bring them to 60 Rowan Road. Cheques made payable to the Children's Society. Contact Elaine Mason 07846 715620 if you need more information. Thank you.

Beryl Hinton

Beryl is now in Bridgnorth Community Hospital . Visitors are encouraged. Visiting hours are 2.30 – 4pm and 6-8pm



Songs of Praise

Sunday 25th February 3.30pm – 4.45pm at the Methodist Church Hall.

Choose and sing your favourite

hymns and enjoy fellowship, coffee, tea and cake!

Shropshire Supports Refugees

Some of you will remember Chris Ashley, who now worships in Wellington. Chris is doing a lot of work with refugees and particularly wanted to share with us the work being done by Shropshire Supports Refugees (Registered Charity No. 1196673) There is a newsletter from Chris on the notice board at the back of church, including information about a clothes appeal and you can find out more about the charity at

<https://www.shropshiresupportsrefugees.org/>

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.

UHT Milk (Blue and Green) – NO STOCK



We have plenty of—Pasta; Rice; Tea;

Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes.

If you need to contact the Foodbank, please call

01630 654007 (not the number in the current church directory). The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Foodbank Trustee Needed

The Foodbank are looking for someone with a finance background to join the Board of Trustees. For more information please see the poster on the notice board at the back of church or speak to Catherine.

Make a Mother's Day Campaign 2024



The Mothers' Union will be holding a sale of cakes and other baked products and of preserves in church following both morning services on **Sunday 3rd March**. The 2024 campaign sale will be in aid of MU charities in Africa.

Messy Church

Tuesday 5th March

3.30pm – 5.15pm in the Parish Rooms



Contactless Giving

We now have a contactless giving device on the way into church. This allows visitors and those without cash to easily make a donation with their cards. There

will also shortly be QR codes in church: these will also enable donations via mobile phones.

Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Parish Rooms FB: @TheParishRoomsMD

Operations Manager: Elaine Cook

E-mail: opsmanagerofstmarys@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.